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8 THINGS TO KNOW

Biden denies inappropriate conduct over alleged kiss

Lucy Flores claims the former VP touched her shoulders and smelled her hair.

REUTERS

Former Vice President Joe Biden said on Sunday he believed he had never acted inappropriately following allegations by a female activist that he made her feel uncomfortable by kissing her at a campaign event in 2014.

"In my many years on the campaign trail and in public life, I have offered countless handshakes, hugs, expressions of affection, support and comfort. And not once — never — did I believe I acted inappropriately. If it is suggested I did so, I will listen respectfully. But it was never my intention," Biden said.

Biden has said he does not recall the 2014 incident.

The allegation was made in an online essay published on Friday by Lucy Flores, a Democratic Party activist who was running to be Nevada's lieutenant governor. Flores said Biden also touched her shoulders and smelled her hair when they appeared at an event together, making her feel uncomfortable.

In his statement Biden added: "I may not recall these moments the same way, and I may be surprised at what I hear. But we have arrived at an important time when women feel they can and should relate their experiences, and men should pay attention. And I will."

Speaking on Sunday to CNN's "State of the Union" show, Flores said she was glad that Biden was willing to listen but demanded that the former vice president acknowledge that his behavior was wrong. "If he's saying that he never believed that was inappropriate then, frankly, I think that's a little bit of a disconnect," she said.

"I want him to change his behavior. I want him to acknowledge that it was wrong."

Biden served eight years as vice president under former President Barack Obama and 36 years in the U.S. Senate. He has not yet said whether he will run for president in 2020, but has been expected to throw his hat into the ring soon.

The allegations may raise questions over whether the former vice president could still run, although some Democrats on Sunday defended Biden.

"Certainly, one allegation is not disqualifying but it should be taken seriously," Democratic Sen. Dick Durbin, Senate minority whip, told NBC News' "Meet the Press" on Sunday.

White House adviser Kellyanne Conway also weighed in on the issue on Fox News Sunday, saying it was "bold" of Flores to come forward. "I would remind the audience that she shares Joe Biden's political party. … So it's quite bold for her to go up against the highest levels of her own political party." REUTERS

Arab leaders condemn US decision on Golan

2 Arab leaders condemned on Sunday a U.S. decision to recognize Israel's sovereignty over the Golan Heights and said Middle East stability depended on creating a Palestinian state. Arab leaders, gathering at a summit in Tunis, have been under popular pressure to reject Washington's action, while they also grapple with regional differences, including a bitter Gulf Arab dispute, splits over Iran's regional influence, the war in Yemen and unrest in Algeria and Sudan. Saudi Arabia's King Salman bin Abdulaziz told Arab monarchs, presidents and prime ministers at the meeting that his country "absolutely rejects" any measures affecting Syria's sovereignty over the Golan Heights. President Donald Trump signed a proclamation last week recognizing the Golan Heights as part of Israel, which annexed the area in 1981 after capturing it from Syria in 1967.

Vogue mag returns in Greece as debt crisis ebbs

3 Fashion magazine Vogue hit the newsstands in Greece on Sunday, relaunched after a seven-year absence as publishers bet that the country's economic recovery after a debt crisis will revive an appetite for glossy fashion and lifestyle prints. Vogue Greece will be the luxury magazine's 26th international edition, run by a 29-year-old editor-in-chief Thaleia Karafyllidou. The fashion bible's publisher Conde Nast International has teamed up with Kathimerines Ekdoseis and the monthly edition will be distributed with Sunday's Kathimerini newspaper, which is celebrating 100 years in print in 2019. It will also hit newsstands in Greece and Cyprus. "Dear Vogue Greece, welcome back again," Anna Wintour, Vogue editor-in-chief since 1988, wrote in the Greek comeback edition titled "Eyes on the Future" and starring model Bella Hadid on its cover.

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Jeff Bezos. REUTERS

National Enquirer publisher insists 'single source' for Bezos reports

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AMI denies claims that the Saudi government accessed the Amazon chief's phone.

The publisher of the National Enquirer on Sunday said its reports on Amazon Chief Executive Jeff Bezos' private life were based on information from a single source, the brother of Bezos' girlfriend, Lauren Sanchez.

The statement from American Media Inc. followed publication by Bezos security chief Gavin De Becker of an article in the Daily Beast in which he said the government of Saudi Arabia had accessed private information from Bezos' phone.

While De Becker said in the article that there was "high confidence that the Saudis had access to Bezos' phone," it was "unclear to what degree, if any, AMI was aware of the details."

Nevertheless, AMI released a statement saying its reports on Bezos' affair with Sanchez were based solely on information provided by Michael Sanchez, "who tipped the National Enquirer off to the affair on Sept. 10, 2018, and over the course of four months provided all of the materials for our investigation.

"There was no involvement by any third party whatsoever," it added.

Gavin de Becker & Associates did not immediately respond to a request for comment. A representative for the Saudi embassy in Washington did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

The security chief for Amazon Chief Executive Jeff Bezos said on Saturday that the Saudi government had access to Bezos' phone and gained private information from it.

Gavin De Becker, a longtime security consultant, said he had concluded his investigation into the publication in January of leaked text messages between Bezos and Lauren Sanchez, a former television anchor whom the National Enquirer tabloid newspaper said Bezos was dating.

Last month, Bezos accused the newspaper's owner of trying to blackmail him with the threat of publishing "intimate photos" he allegedly sent to Sanchez unless he said in public that the tabloid's reporting on him was not politically motivated.

In an article for The Daily Beast website, De Becker said the parent company of the National Enquirer, American Media Inc., had privately demanded that De Becker deny finding any evidence of "electronic eavesdropping or hacking in their newsgathering process."

"Our investigators and several experts concluded with high confidence that the Saudis had access to Bezos' phone, and gained private information," De Becker wrote. "As of today, it is unclear to what degree, if any, AMI was aware of the details."

A spokesman for the Saudi embassy in Washington did not immediately return a request for comment. In February, the kingdom's minister of state for foreign affairs said Saudi Arabia had "absolutely nothing to do" with the National Enquirer's reporting on the affair.

A representative for AMI did not immediately respond to a request for comment. AMI has previously said that it acted lawfully in the reporting of the Bezos story.

De Becker said he had turned over the findings of his investigation to U.S. federal officials, without elaborating. REUTERS

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Cars queue up in multiple lines as they wait to be inspected by U.S. border patrol officers to enter from Mexico.

Frequent crossers of US-Mexico border fret over threatened shutdown

Authorities have assigned students their own pedestrian lanes.

Workers and students who frequently cross the U.S. border with Mexico worried over the weekend about the impact on their lives if President Donald Trump follows through on a threat to shut entry points used by hundreds of thousands of people every day.

Faced with a surge of asylum seekers from Central American countries who travel through Mexico, Trump said on Friday there was a "good likelihood" he would close the border this coming week if Mexico does not stop unauthorized immigrants from reaching the United States.

Shutting the southern frontier completely would disrupt billions of dollars in trade and millions of legal border crossings, including those made by U.S. citizen Andrea Torres.

The 22-year-old student spends weekdays with her aunt in El Paso, where she attends the local campus of the University of Texas, and weekends with her mother in Ciudad Juarez, Mexico.

On the border bridge linking the two cities, so many students cross every day that authorities have assigned them their own pedestrian lane.

"Right now, it's better for me to stay in El Paso because I need to finish school," Torres, who is studying art history, said on Friday as she headed to Juarez for the weekend.

That would mean missing her mom. "It would be really hard," Torres said. "I'm really close to her."

Gerardo Pozas, a 38-year-old mechanic, moved to El Paso from Juarez in 1997 to attend high school and later became a U.S. citizen. He has always retained strong ties with his birthplace. He worried what he would do if Trump closed the border.

"My family, my church and my girlfriend are [in Juarez]. I wouldn't be able to go," Pozas said. "But if I stay there, in Ciudad Juarez, I wouldn't be able to come to my house."

Department of Homeland Security officials had already warned traffic with Mexico could slow as the agency shifts personnel from ports of entry to help process asylum seekers.

Delays were already being felt on Friday, with waiting times longer than usual on the Mexican side of the crossing between Juarez and El Paso, and hours-long lines for trucks carrying goods from Mexican factories into the United States.

Trade between the United States and its third-largest trading partner totaled $612 billion last year, according to the U.S. Cen-

REUTERS

sus Bureau.

Brandon Carlan, a 21-year-old waiter from Boston, Massachusetts, works in San Diego but lives in Tijuana, Mexico, because he cannot afford San Diego's high rents. He said he crosses the border every day.

"[Closing it] would affect me economically because I wouldn't be able to pay my bills," Carlan said. "There are people going back and forth every day and they are not going to be able to see their families or go to their houses."

Construction worker Alejandro Villegas, 43, is from Tijuana, Mexico, but lives in San Diego. He said many of his colleagues live in Mexico and cross the border daily.

"People have kids who study on this side and on the Mexican side and they have to cross to take them to school, to go shopping and to work, so this is a big problem for us," he said.

Trump, who launched his presidential campaign in 2015 with a promise to crack down on illegal immigration, has repeatedly threatened to close the border during his two years in office but has not followed through.

Mexico has played down the possibility of a border shutdown. On Friday its foreign minister, Marcelo Ebrard, said the country does not act on the basis of threats.

REUTERS

Traffic at San Ysidro bridge border line in Tijuana. GETTY IMAGES

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Kristaps Porzingis as a Knick during a game against the Atlanta Hawks at Madison Square Garden. GETTY IMAGES

Former Knicks star Porzingis denies rape allegations

The Latvian center allegedly reneged on a $68,000 payment for the accuser's brother's tuition.

The lawyer for former Knicks star Kristaps Porzingis on Sunday denied an allegation that his client sexually assaulted a woman in 2018.

"We are aware of the complaint ... and unequivocally deny the allegations," the lawyer, Roland Riopelle, said in a statement to Reuters.

Riopelle told Newsday the sex was consensual.

Local media reported on Sunday that the NYPD had opened an investigation into the allegation against the 23-year-old Latvian-born center. A police spokesman said the department did not have a comment.

The New York Post reported that Porzingis had been accused of raping and beating a 29-year-old woman in his Manhattan penthouse hours after suffering a knee injury on Feb. 6, 2018, while playing for the Knicks.

The woman made her allegation on Thursday and police investigators are considering her credible, a high-ranking source within the department told the Post.

Riopelle said the NBA was made aware of the rape allegation months ago, before Porzingis was traded to the Dallas Mavericks. He also said his legal team referred "extortionate demands" made by the accuser to federal law enforcement in December. The alleged victim contacted police this week with details of the alleged rape, according to the Post.

The Post said that the accuser was considered "believable" despite waiting more than 13 months to report the incident. She told police that she and Porzingis had discussed $68,000 in hush money.

"We have been instructed by federal authorities not to comment," Mavericks owner Mark Cuban told the Post in an email. The Post said Cuban had copied the email to NBA officials and Porzingis' representatives.

According to the Post, the woman lived in the same building as Porzingis and said he showed up at her unit around 2 a.m. She accepted an invitation to Porzingis' suite.

She told police that after entering, the 7-foot-3 Porzingis held her down and raped her, according to the Post.

TMZ also reported on Saturday that the woman claimed she was hit in the face and spit on by Porzingis. He also called her "my b—h" and "my slave" and said he owned her.

"We are aware of the complaint made against Mr. Porzingis on Friday and unequivocally deny the allegations."

Roland Riopelle, Porzingis' attorney

The woman said she waited more than a year to report the rape because of the money Porzingis promised in exchange for her silence.

The $68,000 was supposed to pay for her brother's college tuition, but Porzingis reneged on the deal, the woman reportedly told police.

Porzingis tore his left ACL earlier that night in a loss to the Milwaukee Bucks. He never played for the Knicks again due to the injury and the recent trade.

The Knicks were reportedly contacted by the Post about the allegation.

"This is Kristaps' personal matter and not related to the Knicks," a team spokesman said.

REUTERS

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Comedian expected to lead in Ukraine presidential vote

A comedian with a popular anti-corruption message but no political experience took the lead in the first round of Ukraine's presidential election on Sunday, exit polls showed.

Volodymyr Zelenskiy, 41, who plays a fictional president in a TV show, had consistently led opinion polls in a three-horse race against incumbent Petro Poroshenko and former Prime Minister Yulia Tymoshenko.

Zelenskiy secured 30.6 percent of votes, compared with Poroshenko's 17.8 percent, according to an updated exit poll released at 11 p.m., three hours after voting closed.

No candidate is expected to receive more than half the votes, meaning the election would go to a runoff on April 21. Out of a crowded field of 39 candidates, none of the likely winners wants to move Ukraine back into Russia's orbit.

At stake is the leadership of a country on the front line of the West's standoff with Russia after the 2014 Maidan street protests ejected Poroshenko's Kremlin-friendly predecessor and Russia annexed the Crimean peninsula.

Investors are watching to see if the next president will push reforms required to keep the country in an International Monetary Fund bailout program that has supported Ukraine through war, sharp recession and a currency plunge.

"I would like to say 'thank you' to all the Ukrainians who did not vote just for fun," Zelenskiy told cheering supporters on Sunday evening. "It is only the beginning, we will not relax."

In keeping with the relaxed style of his campaign, Zelenskiy's election-night venue provided a bar with free alcohol, table football and table tennis games.

Poroshenko called the result a "severe lesson," especially from younger voters, and appealed for their support in the second round.

"You see changes in the country, but want them to be quicker, deeper and of higher quality. I have understood the motives behind your protest," he said after the exit poll.

Poroshenko, who said the elections had been fair and in line with international standards, sought to portray Zelenskiy as unfit to represent Ukraine abroad, especially in taking on Russian President Vladimir Putin in international talks.

Putin "dreams of a soft, pliant, tender, giggling, inexperienced, weak, ideologically amorphous and politically undecided president of Ukraine. Are we really going to give him that opportunity?" Poroshenko said.

He also played on a suspicion that Zelenskiy's campaign was masterminded by Ihor Kolomoisky, a tycoon whose channel airs Zelenskiy's shows. The two men deny colluding.

"Fate decided to put me up against that Kolomoisky puppet in the second round. We won't give Kolomoisky any chance," Poroshenko said.

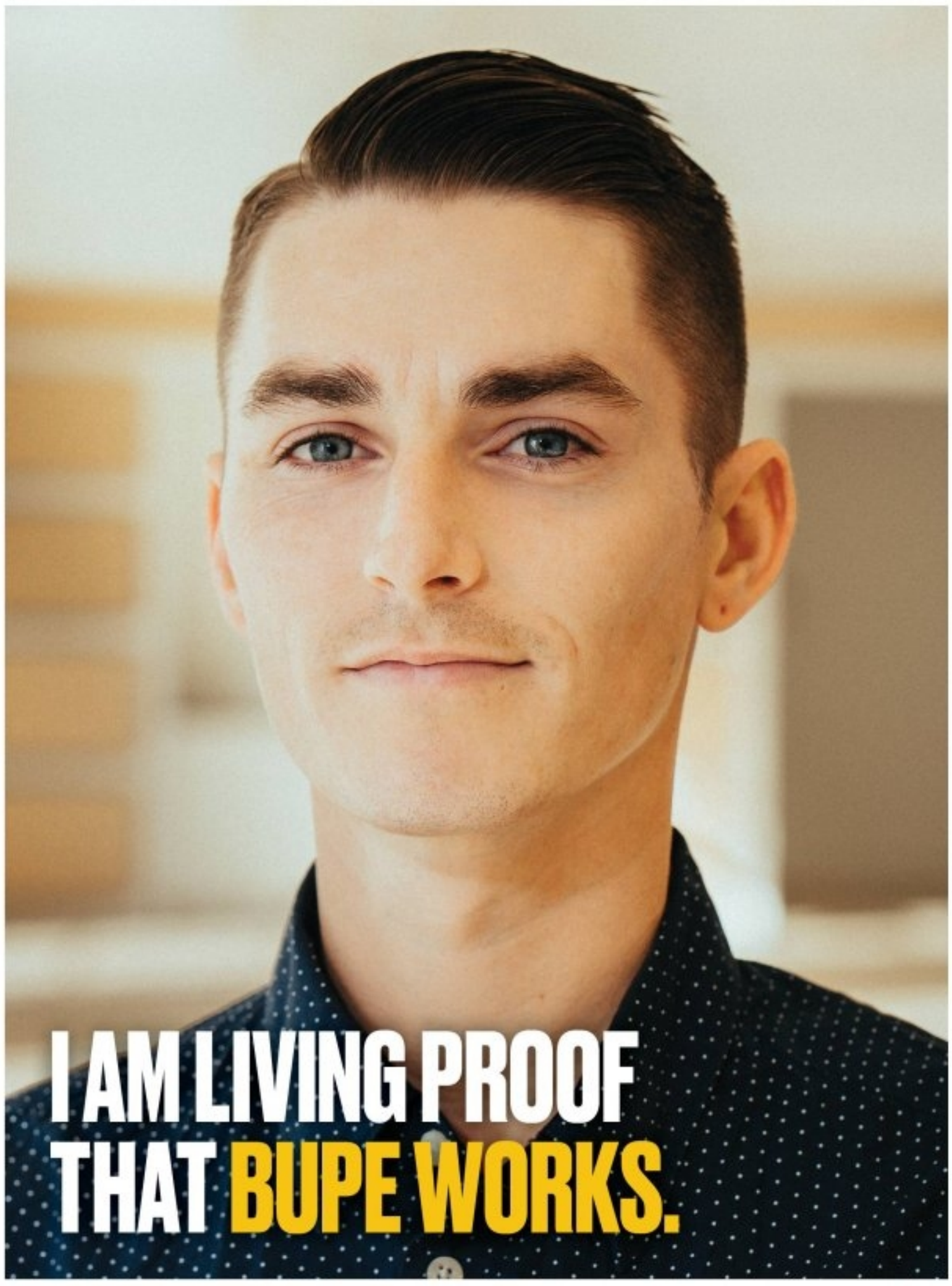
Zelenskiy swiftly hit back by spotlighting Poroshenko's connections with another businessman.

Tymoshenko, who won 14.2 percent of the votes, challenged the accuracy of the exit poll, saying her internal polling put her in second place behind Zelenskiy. She said at a news conference that she might contest the final result.

Stuart Culverhouse, head of sovereign and fixed-income research at investment bank Exotix, said Zelenskiy had tried to present himself more professionally by meeting business leaders and talking of orthodox economic policies.

"That said, if the exit polls are confirmed in the official vote count, we would expect Zelenskiy to be put under greater pressure in the run-up to the second round to flesh out his policy agenda," he said. REUTERS

Volodymyr Zelenskiy. REUTERS



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— **Al,** *Metro Philly reader*

ISTOCK

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries Protect your personal information. Don't play with fire when dealing with financial matters. Bide your time and make decisions and changes based on facts.

Taurus Take your time. The harder you press to get things done, the longer it will take. If you let things unfold naturally, everything will fall into place.

Gemini Knowing what you want will be half the battle. If you hesitate or give someone the upper hand, you should expect to be left behind. Focusing on your goal should be priority No. 1.

Cancer Don't wait for someone else to do things for you. Be the master of your destiny and take pride in what you do. Partnerships will work only if you can maintain equality.

Leo Emotional spending will get you into trouble. You cannot buy love and you shouldn't feel that you must impress others. Just be yourself and do your own thing.

Virgo A change will do you good. Distance yourself from your troubles to help put situations in perspective. Don't let anger turn into a costly mistake.

Libra Put more thought into your relationships and how you can improve emotionally taxing situations. Surround yourself with supportive, positive people and you'll do better in all walks of life.

Scorpio Express your thoughts and ideas with someone who shares your goals. A positive change to the way you live and with whom you associate will lead to personal success.

Sagittarius It's up to you to bring about positive change. If you let someone dictate what you can and cannot do, you will end up having regrets. Be a leader, not a follower.

Capricorn Look at all your options and choose what's doable. If you take on too much, you won't be satisfied with the results. Set a goal and stick to it.

Aquarius Rely on methods that have worked for you in the past. Make adjustments at home that will help you reach your goals. Arguing will be a waste of time.

Pisces Take a break and rethink your next move. Call on people who owe you a favor or can help you reach your goal. A joint effort will lead to greater opportunities.

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LIFESTYLE

5 Fun things to do in Philly this week

Test your "Friends" knowledge, learn how to make a CBD cocktail, and much more.

MOLLY GIVEN
Molly.Given@metro.us

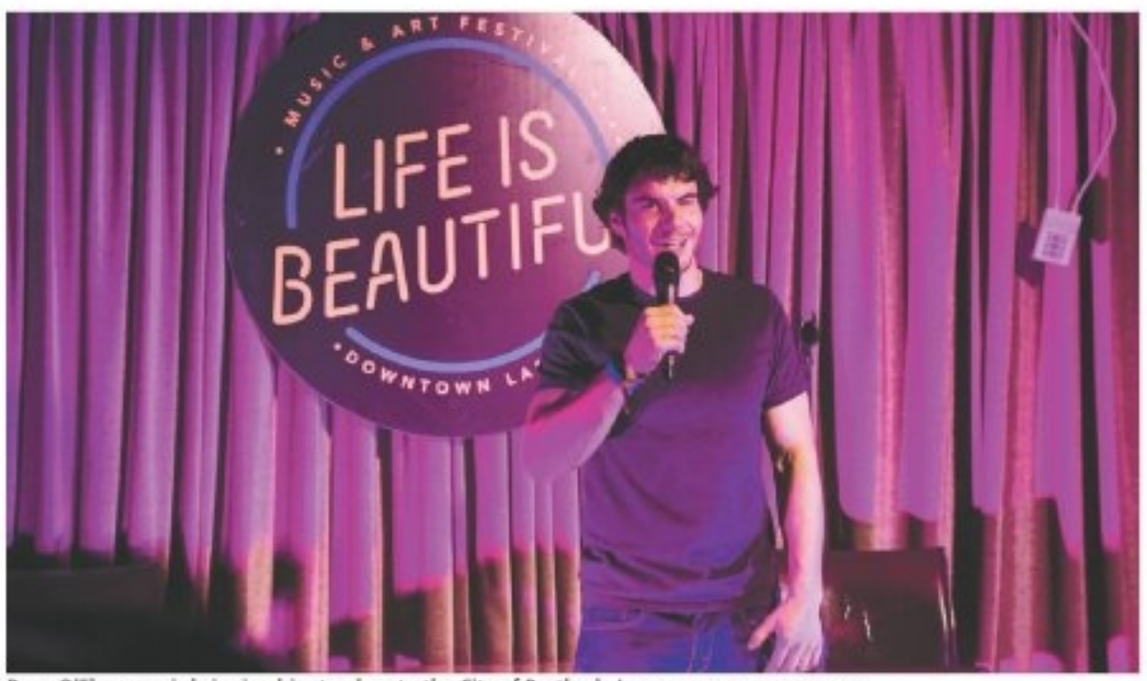
Looking for some fun and unique things to do in Philly this week? We've got you covered.

Mariah Carey
The singer, songwriter, actress, record producer, entrepreneur and ultimate fabulous diva is hitting the stage in Philly this weekend for one night only. Carey is known around the world for her incredible vocal talents that span over five octaves, her stellar performances and insanely high whistle register. Her fan base has accumulated strong and loyal supporters around the globe, and the list keeps growing. Carey will be performing some of her greatest hits including "We Belong Together," "Always Be My Baby," "Heartbreaker," "When You Believe," "Bye Bye" and much more. *April 3, 8-11 p.m., The Met Philadelphia, 858 N. Broad St.,$69-$250, themetphilly.com*

Crime and Cookies
Head to Tattooed Mom this week to indulge in a night full of true crime, laughter and plenty of tasty treats. Gina and Andrea, two local comedians, will be hitting the stage and focusing on the survivors of some of the most notorious true crime stories. While sitting back and listening to the interesting tales, guests can also dive into some delicious cookies from Batter & Crumbs (they are providing a bake sale for the event). There will also be plenty of games, prizes and delicious food available for purchase. A few menu items include a hummus and falafel platter, honey sriracha chicken wings, parmesan pepper fries, pickled fried chicken sandwich and much more. While there, be sure to check out some of Tattooed Mom's delicious and unique cocktails as well. *April 4, 8:30-10 p.m., Tattooed Mom, 530 South St., tattooedmomphilly.com*

CBD Cocktail Class
Old City hot spot Art in the Age is hosting this fun and unique class centered around the use of the medicinal marijuana extract CBD in cocktails. Guests will learn how to make two herbal-driven beverages and find out new and crafty ways to dispense CBD. Lee Noble will be leading the class and demonstrating the ins and outs of classic cocktail making while mixing in the CBD flair. Price of admission includes two CBD cocktails (alcohol or non-alcoholic), a Q&A about the background

Mariah Carey is hitting the stage in Philly this week.



Ryan O'Flanagan is bringing his stand-up to the City of Brotherly Love. ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

and potential of CBD, a mixology demonstration, and the hands-on drink-making workshop. You must be at least 21 years old to participate.
April 3, 6-8 p.m., Art in the Age, 116 N. 3rd St., $40, artintheage.com

"Friends" Trivia
Ok Philly, you've got a few days to binge-watch 10 seasons of "Friends" on Netflix before heading to this fun quizzo event. Goose Island Brewhouse will be hosting this exciting evening full of all things Phoebe, Joey, Chandler, Rachel, Ross and Monica. Think you know everything there is to know about Central Perk's favorite customers? Challenge yourself during five rounds of "Friends" quizzo and you'll find out. While at the Brewhouse, be sure to sample some of Goose Island's unique and refreshing beers and tasty food as well. Mouthwatering menu items include deviled eggs, PEI mussels, chorizo tacos, pork schnitzel, chicken pot pie, a Chicago platter and much more.
April 3, 7-9 p.m., Goose Island Brewhouse, 1002 Canal St., gooseisland.com

Ryan O'Flanagan
Ryan O'Flanagan has been taking the country by storm with his popular stand-up. Some may recognize the Rhode Island native from hit shows and movies like Netflix's "American Vandal," "New Girl," "Adam DeVine's House Party" and "Last Call With Carson Daly." Flanagan has also toured the country with his sketch comedy group Dead Kevin for many years before heading out with his solo career. Flanagan will be performing at Punch Line Philly for one night only this week.
April 1, 8 p.m., Punch Line Philly, 33 E. Laurel St., $17.50-$22.50, punchlinephilly.com

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Amanda Palmer on speaking truth to power through experience

We spoke with the trailblazing singer-songwriter about her new album "There Will Be No Intermission."

PAT KING
patrick.king@metro.us

Amanda Palmer is not one to keep things bottled up. With a career that began with her trailblazing two-piece cabaret-meets-punk band the Dresden Dolls, Palmer introduced herself as a defiantly confessional singer-songwriter with no reservations on tackling difficult subject matter. Ever since the Dolls came raging onto the scene in the early 2000s, Palmer has had a long career full of rewarding albums that have held a sideshow mirror up to society.

Her newest album, "There Will Be No Intermission," is a new high-water mark for Palmer as a storyteller. The album finds her stripping back her sometimes frantic and brutal arrangements in exchange for lush orchestrations that surround the songs making her playing — mainly on piano and ukulele — and her voice the centerpiece of her unflinchingly honest narratives.

The album is highly autobiographical as it takes the listener on a life-spanning arc through Palmer's life, from seventh grade to today, a span of time that saw Palmer become a victim of sexual assault, go through the horrendous experience of having an abortion, and build a family of her own in her forties with celebrated author Neil Gaiman. Her stories are woven with a stream-of-consciousness

AP

quality, giving the album a sense of importance that ties directly to our current moment.

"I think that's why this album can never be really tangled out from this moment in time, in 2019," says Palmer of her own experiences that provided inspiration for the album. "With #MeToo just having happened, with Harvey Weinstein and Bill Cosby just having been brought down, with Hannah Gadsby just having taken stage, there's a realization right now that the truth of our stories is actually the most powerful weapon that we have, and marching in the streets is powerful, and clicking on a petition on change.org can be powerful, and calling your senator can also be powerful. But the sharpest tool in our arsenal, especially as women, is standing up and stating the naked truth of our experience. Because the truth is the f—king truth. And when women simply get up and say it, it's inarguable."

The standout on the album is the song "Voicemail for Jill," where Palmer leaves a message for a friend who is planning on getting an abortion in the morning. The song ponders why people throw parties for both births and deaths but not for those who go through one of the most unimaginable experiences possible. The song successfully humanizes the issue of abortion by speaking plainly with a resounding sense of empathy that is missing from the politicization that tends to hijack the issue.

"Of course, there's a human side to abortions, because for every abortion there's a human being who has to get up in the morning and go get an abortion," explains Palmer. "We forget that, we get so caught up in the rhetoric and the theorizing and the politics and the policy. But tons of women in America have gone through this. And every single woman in America has woken up to their alarm that morning knowing that's the walk they're going to have to take. And the way things are set up in our system

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right now is that it's either a walk of shame or, if not, it's a walk of secrecy. Because no one wants to rock the boat, and we're doing such a terrible job as a society taking care of one another. In those moments, and many others. As we can clearly see what is going on in our country right now. We're just so bad with taking care of each other right now. The number of women who just suffer in silence in the lead-up to an abortion and on the day of and in the aftermath is just devastating. But it's not a crisis, you know? An epidemic emotion crisis that women suffer is pretty ignorable and is never going to be given top billing on the national agenda. And, I wouldn't mind adding, the men who suffer through these horrific emotional and complex experiences of abortions are pretty much erased as well. Because I know as many men who have been through difficult abortions as I know women. And no one f—king talks about it."

While many songwriters have burned through albums in order to earn the hard-won emotional calluses to be completely open and honest in their lyrics, Palmer had come out of the gate early on in her career with a bravery in storytelling in those early Dresden Dolls albums that announced her as one of the most unique songwriters of her generation. Knowing that only makes the new depths reached on "Intermission" such a revelation for longtime fans. But how does this beyond-skin-deep vulnerability take its toll on the artist herself?

"Of course, it scares the s–t out of me," Palmer says with a laugh. "But it also feels like it's been part of my personal growth to get to the point where I know it scares the s–t out of me but I know I have enough immunity to do it anyway. Because I wasn't able to do that at 25. I was just barely able to stand up armed with a wall of metaphor, screaming at a piano, and saying things plainly and quietly was way too frightening for me. And that has changed because I feel so much more powerful than that 25-year-old girl."

Baring her soul has paid off throughout the years, both on a musical and business level. Palmer was one of the first artists to really revolutionize the notion that independent artists could forgo the process of going through a traditional record label cycle and, rather, crowdsource funds for projects, building a more tightly formed relationship between an artist and her fans. Back in 2015, Palmer was able to raise $1.2 million through Kickstarter and since has gone on to write a book and even give a TED Talk on the subject. Given the fluidity of the changing of hands between Palmer and her fans, it can sometimes be a lot playing the part of "Amanda Palmer," especially with an album this personal.

"That's sort of the problem with being Amanda Palmer," Palmer explains. "When you write s–t that's personal and you sort of live in your echo chamber and fan cave, it's frightening to put out a record like this because you just don't know. I really live in an insular world because I do have a small group of fans who love the stories and love the emotion and love the forthright nature of it, but I know it's not everyone's bag."

Palmer's tour around "There Will Be No Intermission" will see her playing theaters across the country, where she plans to perform not only songs from the new album and the rest of her robust career but some choice selections from the Disney catalog as well. Because you have to lighten the mood somehow.

"I've really distilled what it is I want to say down to about three hours of stories, paired with songs from the album, and it's a pretty bizarre show and not what I expected to make," says Palmer. "But it wound up being a cross between a TED Talk, a piece of stand-up comedy and the saddest songs. I've performed it a few times in New York now, and there's a lot of visceral belly laughter and a lot of weeping. And I think I've figured it out."

Amanda Palmer will be in town to perform at the Temple Performing Arts Center on Saturday, April 6.

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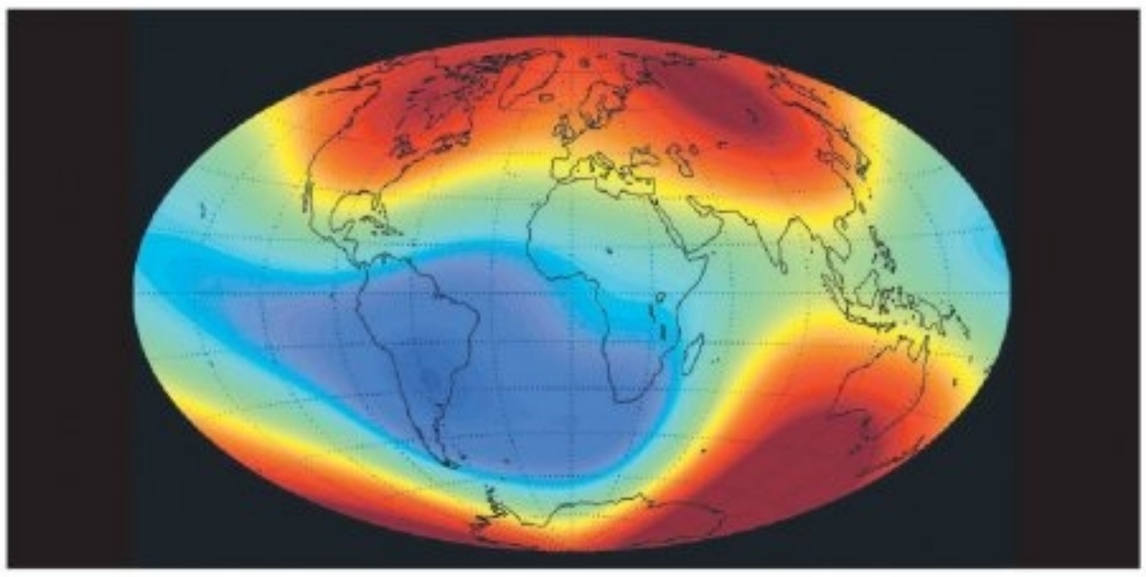

"You have to straighten out all these animals with kicks," says Dr. Enrique Cordaro, sharing a quote that his friend, Nicanor Parra, would say jokingly during the decade they taught adjoining classes at the University of Chile. The scientist today hopes to do the same as his colleague: leave a legacy.

What Cordaro has in his hands is, according to him, a "scientific bomb."

"It is the first time that a model can, scientifically, predict earthquakes, the first time that it is measuring specifically all the properties that a seismic movement could have before it happens," says the academic from the Faculty of Physical Sciences and Mathematics of the University of Chile.

The results of his study were published in the latest edition of the Advances in Space Research journal and deal with nothing less than the verification that by looking at the Earth's magnetic field and its variations, an earthquake could be "seen" to come.

"We are not seismologists. We do not work with tectonic plates, but with the magnetic field. It's another method, another way of looking at the problem," Cordaro explains.

He has been developing the method for more than 50 years, time in which he has opened three cosmic radiation and geomagnetism observatories where he found the relationship between magnetism and pronounced earthquakes.

According to the scientist, his study is focused on the Earth's interior. The magnetic field originates in the liquid core of the planet, and there, almost 5,000 kilometers (3,107 miles) inland, he found that declines in the magnetic field were a clear indicator that a strong tremor would occur on surface.

From Chile to the world

"I register it as a terrible decrease in the magnetic field. When it goes down, I immediately begin to corroborate if any frequencies are being generated, which are the ones we find in our [Chile's] earthquakes, as well as in the ones in Sumatra and Japan, on the other side of the planet," explains the scientist.

He and his team have confirmed their model with 18 large earthquakes of magnitudes between 6 and 8 on the Richter scale. He says that the anticipation, or time lapse, with which they read these frequencies were 30 days for South America, 106 days for Sumatra and 20 days for Japan.

"That made everybody go nuts, except for people here in Chile. They, for some reason, don't give a damn," criticizes Cordaro.

All his discoveries are made thanks to magnetometers and neutron gauges located between the centers of Putre, Santiago (Colina) and the Escudero Base (Antarctica).

"The problem is that I have always lacked funds. In fact, my centers are automated because I had to fire my staff. I think that two years from now I will have the complete method and could apply artificial intelligence. I am thinking of the magnetometers as if they were neurons, communicating between them, and the synapse would make it a learn machine that, if they let me work, could be up and working in six months," says Cordaro bluntly.

The question is, what is the predictive capacity of his model?

"If it were in Santiago, a month before the earthquake I could identify the trend, the change in the magnetic field, and 48 hours before I could be sure if it is coming," he explains.

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What Eagles are getting in Howard

The Eagles picked up the running back on Thursday.

JOE PANTORNO
joseph.pantorno@metro.us

The Eagles acquired Jordan Howard on Thursday night. GETTY IMAGES

The Eagles ticked another need off their offseason on Thursday night when they acquired running back Jordan Howard from the Chicago Bears for a sixth-round draft pick in 2020.

It's a small price to pay for a rusher of Howard's talents, who brings a much-needed boost to the Eagles backfield.

With Jay Ajayi off to free agency, Philadelphia's current regime of Wendell Smallwood, Darren Sproles and Corey Clement left plenty to be desired in order to create a well-rounded Eagles offense for Carson Wentz. After the early season-ending injury to Ajayi last year, the Eagles rushing attack finished the 2018 season ranked 28th in the league.

The 24-year-old has regressed in each of his three seasons in the league, statistically speaking, which provides a worrisome trend on paper. After bursting onto the scene with 1,313 yards (5.2 yards per attempt), Howard's numbers dropped to 1,122 in 2017 and 935 in 2018.

Still, the fifth-round pick is already becoming one of the more productive backs given his Day 3 selection at the draft. He is one of 10 Day 3 rushers in NFL history to produce two 1,000-plus-yard seasons in his first three years as a pro.

His most recent drop in production was due to his problems within Matt Nagy's offense. The Bears coach has predicated his offense on an elusive running back that can make people miss.

Howard was not that as he provides a more downhill, hard-nosed style of running, which should be just fine for the Eagles offense.

As a best-case scenario, Howard becomes a major upgrade over Ajayi and flourishes behind a strong Eagles offensive line and reproduces the numbers from his first two years in the league. It would provide the organization with a No. 1, every-down back that brings another playmaking talent to a unit that features Wentz, Alshon Jeffery, DeSean Jackson and Zach Ertz.

Eagles fans could expect a similar rushing attack to that of LeGarrette Blount's time in Philadelphia. Expect much more north-and-south running rather than the horizontal, east-and-west style that comes with some of the more finesse backs in the league.

If there are some questions on his ability to control the run game, the Eagles will feature Howard in a committee alongside Smallwood, Clement and Sproles.

It will force the Eagles to look for a replacement over the next few seasons, even as soon as the 2019 draft.

At the end of the day, though, this is a low-risk, high-reward move for the Eagles, who are poised to be the overwhelming favorites for the NFC East crown this year.

Sixers have six more games to tune up

After a pair of puzzling losses to the Atlanta Hawks and Orlando Magic, the 76ers look to be stabilizing with two straight wins over the Brooklyn Nets and the Minnesota Timberwolves to end their week on a high note.

In a parity-less Eastern Conference, the 76ers have clinched their spot in the postseason, but their recent performances have done little to suggest they are a lock to make a deep playoff run.

The Sixers currently hold the No. 3 spot in the East with a 4.5-game advantage over the Boston Celtics and Indiana Pacers, who are lurking in fourth and fifth. An identical 4.5 games separate Philadelphia from the East's No. 2-seeded Toronto Raptors.

GETTY IMAGES

With six games remaining, the Sixers don't necessarily have that difficult of a remaining schedule. In fact, the one real imposing matchup will come on Thursday at home against the top-seeded Milwaukee Bucks.

Of the other five games, only the Miami Heat currently occupy a playoff spot and they're the East's eighth-placed side.

Two matchups against the Chicago Bulls and a chance to avenge last week's loss against the Hawks in Atlanta helps round out a schedule that provides the 76ers with a nice chance to bolster their standing as the conference's No. 3 seed. The final stretch begins tonight in Dallas as the Sixers visit the struggling Mavericks.

JOE PANTORNO

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Sports betting ready to hit the Poconos

Two new casinos are prepping to operate sportsbooks.

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

Sports betting venue options continue to increase in the state of Pennsylvania as it was announced over the weekend that two new casinos have submitted their applications to operate a sportsbook.

Mount Airy Casino Resort in Pocono, Pennsylvania (an hour and 45 minutes from Philadelphia), and Mohegan Sun Pocono in Wilkes-Barre (an hour and 50 minutes from Philly) are now both ready to jump into the fray. Mount Airy is affiliated with 888 Holdings, and Mohegan Sun is in a partnership with Kindred Group.

GETTY IMAGES

If and when Mount Airy and Mohegan Sun are approved, it will make it 10 locations where you can place a bet on sports in the state. Here is the current list of where you can wager on sports in PA:

SugarHouse Casino

Parx Casino

Harrah's Philadelphia

South Philadelphia Turf Club

Valley Forge Race and Sportsbook

Valley Forge – FanDuel

Hollywood Casino at Penn National Race Course

Rivers Casino

Rivers Casino in Pittsburgh was actually the first spot in the state where you could bet on sports as it opened up operations in early December 2018. Since then, however, the brunt of the new action has popped up in and around Philadelphia, which makes sense considering the population discrepancy between Pittsburgh and Philly.

But Rivers has thrived by virtue of being the only show in town. In the month of February, Rivers Casino had the highest handle ($8.1 million) and revenue ($627,521) of all sportsbooks in the state, according to the Pennsylvania Gaming Control Board.

Not only does Rivers have little competition in-state out west, it also doesn't have to deal with New Jersey — which had a six-month head start on Philly in the sports-betting realm and already offers online betting.

TWEET OF THE DAY

Jamal Collier
@JamalCollier

Max Scherzer on facing Bryce Harper Tuesday: "He's signed there forever basically, at least forever in my career... this is just round one."

How to bet on sports: Introduction to basic sports betting **terminology**

MATT BURKE

Matt Burke is a veteran sports journalist and the Founder and Editor in Chief of MetroBet.

One of the more exciting aspects of having legal sports betting in Pennsylvania is that many people will be betting on games for the first time. Having a few dollars riding on the Birds or the Phillies or that random Monday Night Football game just makes things that much more fun. For you first-timers out there, here is some sports betting lingo and basic terminology that will have you ready to win big!

Cover

When you beat the spread by the required number of points. If you pick the favorite in the game, you "cover the spread" when you win by more than the spread. If you pick the underdog, you win by winning outright or by losing less than the spread. For example, if the Eagles are four-point favorites and win by seven, they "cover the spread."

In-game bet

When you bet on a game while the game is being played.

ATS

Instead of a team's win-loss record, it refers to how well a certain team has done in terms of the spread over the course of their season. For instance, the Eagles are 5-1 against the spread in their last six games played.

Parlay

When you bet on multiple teams in one bet. To win, you have to have all the teams you bet on cover the spread. Payouts can increase dramatically if you hit on a parlay.

Moneyline

A bet where you only need the team you bet on to win, regardless of the spread.

Hedging

When you bet the opposite of your original bet to minimize a potential loss.

Push

When the result of the game lands on the betting number. You don't win or lose, you simply get your money back.

Futures

A bet based on how well a certain team does for the whole season. For instance, the Phillies have 14/1 odds of winning the 2019 World Series.

The spread

The number of points a certain team is favored by. For instance, the Eagles are four-point favorites over the Cowboys. The spread is four points.

Go to MetroBet.us for news and analysis.

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In partnership with VSiN

Adapting to new baseball tendencies

New pitching strategy has bettors flummoxed.

VSiN

Fitting that on April Fool's Day, VSiN is going to talk about the challenges of handicapping Major League Baseball. Today's managers won't stop fooling around with their starting rotations!

The essence of picking baseball winners used to be very simple. How is each starting pitcher likely to perform against the opposing offense? If one had a clear edge over the other, bet him at affordable (or underdog) prices. If both were in great shape, bet the Under. If both were likely to get hit, bet the Over.

Now, the starting pitcher may get yanked just as he starts to get in trouble, even if it's only the third or fourth inning. Sometimes, the starting pitcher isn't even a starting pitcher! Tampa Bay, in particular, had great success last season with "openers" who would throw a couple of innings before handing it off to the next guy.

Success gets copied. Because this successful strategy was cheap, effective, and helpful in keeping the entire bullpen active and sharp, more and more teams will at least experiment with the approach.

How should sports bettors deal with this developing situation?

* Monitor each manager's rotation preferences through April, until you get a full sense of how long starters are likely to last and how effective mid-game relievers will be.

* Remember that differences in offenses are often what separate the best teams from the worst. Maybe you were spending too much time studying starting pitchers in the past, anyway. Be sure you know normal run-scoring expectations for each MLB offense.

* Zoom in your focus on home-run dynamics. Which starters and mid-game relievers are most likely to allow dingers? Which offenses are most consistent about going deep? Because pitching is becoming "throw as hard as you can, as long as you can," run production is trending toward "how far can you hit high heat?" Maybe you'll find a team or pitcher strength or weakness before the rest of the market.

* VSiN always encourages bettors to be aware of ballpark effects. It's not hard to do a web search for details on stadium tendencies. ESPN's website has data from the past several seasons. While the market is aware of park effects, it can underestimate the impact of "cocktails" containing ingredients that mix together well (a consistent home-run offense facing a home-run-prone pitcher in a great home-run park, or a fly ball pitcher facing a weaker offense in a spacious stadium).

Don't let baseball make you feel foolish. Work smart so you can bet smart! **JEFF FOGLE**

GETTY IMAGES

Sports on TV Highlights

8:30 pm	**NBA Basketball** Philadelphia 76ers vs. Dallas Mavericks	NBC Sports Philadelphia
7:00 pm	**MLB Baseball** Chicago Cubs vs. Atlanta Braves	ESPN
7:30 pm	**NBA Basketball** Miami Heat vs. Boston Celtics	NBA TV
8:00 pm	**NHL Hockey** Colorado Avalanche vs. St. Louis Blues	NBC Sports Network
10:00 pm	**MLB Baseball** San Francisco Giants vs. L.A. Dodgers	ESPN
10:00 pm	**NBA Basketball** Cleveland Cavaliers vs. Phoenix Suns	NBA TV

Sixers vs. Mavericks betting preview

Both the Sixers (49-27) and Dallas Mavericks (29-46) are expected to be shorthanded when they face off at the American Airlines Center on Monday night. Sixers center Joel Embiid is being held out for "load management" purposes as the playoffs approach, while the Mavericks' phenomenal rookie Luka Doncic is nursing a thigh injury. Philadelphia is the much deeper team, though, and it is also in a favorable situation, so the Sixers should still prevail here.

The Sixers will play on one day of rest against a Dallas squad that just faced the Thunder in Oklahoma City on Sunday. Philly is 31-12 straight-up and 23-20 against the spread in games played on one day of rest this season, outscoring the opposition by an average of 6.2 points per game. By contrast, the Mavs are 1-11 straight-up and 5-7 against the spread on the tail end of consecutive games this year. Their opponents have outscored them by over 10 points per tilt under that circumstance.

GETTY IMAGES

Point guard Ben Simmons was one assist shy of a triple-double against the Timberwolves on Saturday; look for him to have another fine outing against a porous Dallas defense that's allowed at least 116 points in four of its last six contests.

The play: Sixers -5
ROBERT CRISCOLA

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NBA

PHILADELPHIA 76ERS -5 VS. DALLAS MAVERICKS

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Public Notices

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS

Fiscal Year 2020 Operating Budget and Fiscal Years 2021 – 2025 Financial Plan

The Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority (SEPTA) has scheduled public hearings on SEPTA's Proposed Operating Budget for the Fiscal Year ending June 30, 2020 (Fiscal Year 2020) and the Five Year Financial Plan.

THE SCHEDULE OF PUBLIC HEARINGS WILL BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:

West Chester Municipal Building
Council Chambers Room
401 E. Gay Street
West Chester, PA 19380
Monday, April 15, 2019
2:00pm & 6:00pm

Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority
Board Room – Mezzanine Level
1234 Market Street
Philadelphia, PA 19107
Wednesday, April 17, 2019
11:00am & 5:00pm

Bucks County Free Library
Pearl Buck Room
150 S. Pine Street
Doylestown, PA 18901
Thursday, April 18, 2019
2:00pm & 6:00pm

Delaware County Court House/ Government Center Building
County Council Room – 1st Floor
201 W. Front Street
Media, PA 19063
Tuesday, April 16, 2019
2:00pm & 6:00pm

Montgomery County Human Services Center
Community Room – Main Floor
1430 DeKalb Street
Norristown, PA 19404
Tuesday, April 23, 2019
2:00pm & 6:00pm

Persons wishing to file written comments may forward them to the Director of Operating Budgets, Southeastern Pennsylvania Transportation Authority, 1234 Market St., 9th Floor, Philadelphia, PA 19107 by April 29, 2019 so that they may be forwarded to the Hearing Examiner. Comments can also be sent via email to **operatingbudget@septa.org.**

Persons desiring to present extensive comments and testimony are encouraged to do so in writing as the time for individual testimony may be limited in order to accommodate all who wish to speak.

SEPTA will provide a sign language interpreter at the public hearings upon written request received no later than April 1, 2019. Written requests can be mailed to the Director of Operating Budgets at the address above.

Members of the public may obtain a copy of the proposed Operating Budget and Financial Plan at SEPTA's website **www.septa.org** or by requesting, in writing, a copy from the Director of Operating Budgets at the address listed above.

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City of Philadelphia Public Hearing Notice

The **Committee of the Whole** of the Council of the City of Philadelphia will hold a Public Hearing on **Thursday, April 4, 2019,** at **9:00 AM**, in **Room 400, City Hall,** to hear testimony on the following items:

190038 Resolution appointing Betsy Oliphant Ross to the Board of Directors for the Old City Special Services District.

190039 Resolution reappointing Richard Goldberg to the Board of Directors for the Old City Special Services District.

190221 Resolution reappointing Michael Woodward to the Board of Directors of the City Avenue Special Services District of Philadelphia and Lower Merion.

Immediately following the public hearing, a meeting of the Committee of the Whole, open to the public, will be held to consider the action to be taken on the above listed items.

Copies of the foregoing items are available in the Office of the Chief Clerk of the Council, Room 402, City Hall.

Michael A. Decker
Chief Clerk

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Food Service Management Companies and/or their representatives may submit proposals to:

Wissahickon Charter School
C/O Kellie Coleman
4700 G Wissahickon Ave
Philadelphia, PA 19144

Wissahickon Charter School Board of Education reserves the right to accept or reject any and/or all proposals that it finds, in it's sole discretion, to be in the best interest of the school district.

A walk-through meeting is scheduled for 4/4/2019 at 2:30pm 4700G Wissahickon Ave, Phila, PA 19144 with a second walk-through 4/4/2019 at 3:30pm 815 East Washington Ln, Phila, PA 19142.

All proposals must be submitted no later than 4/12/2019 at 4:00pm. All proposals should be delivered in a sealed envelope and addressed to Wissahickon Charter School and be clearly marked:

Food Service Management Proposal

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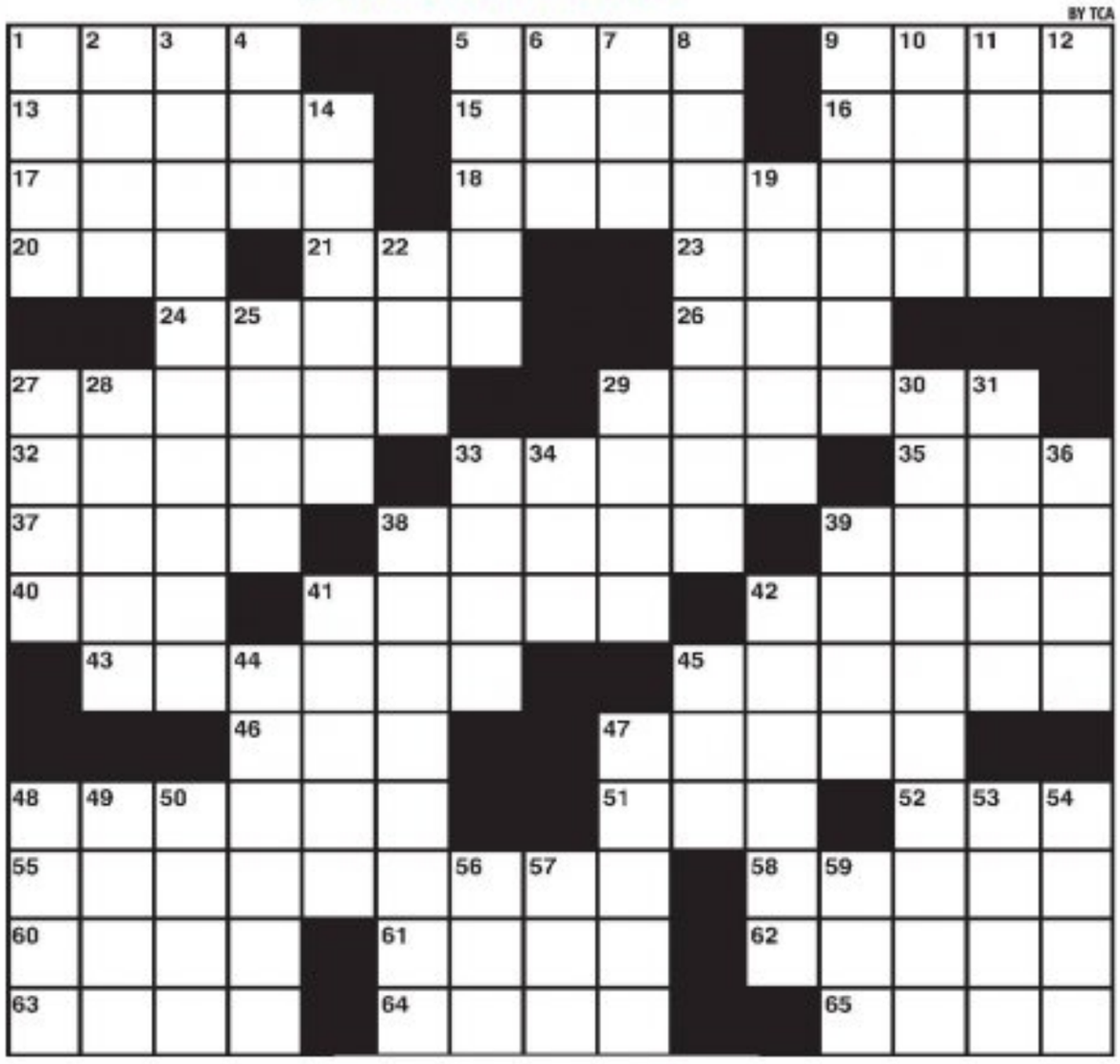

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ACROSS

1 "Somewhere __ the rainbow..."
5 Evening coffee, perhaps
10 Wild feline
14 Tree dropping
15 Disintegrate
16 As strong as __
17 Writing table
18 Missile or archer's arrow, e.g.
20 __ on; watch from hiding
21 Plantar fasciitis site
22 Allergic disorder
23 Noise
25 "Gloria in excelsis __!"
26 Loathing
28 Fall, for one
31 Farmland units
32 Magnificent
34 Bertinelli, to friends
36 "__ Always a Woman"; Billy Joel song
37 Fleeting
38 Group of quail
39 TV's "__ Haw"
40 Nourishes
41 Less adorned
42 Like the sky on a clear night
44 Geometric figure
45 Musician's job
46 Walk through water
47 See eye to eye
50 Sheep's cries
51 Dirt bike or quad, for short
54 Damaging to another's reputation
57 Tried and __; reliable
58 Dad's sister
59 Dangerous beasts
60 Eras
61 Brooklyn team
62 Aerosol
63 Home in the branches

DOWN

1 Cutlass or Alero
2 Quayle or Pence, for short
3 On __; well-off & worry-free
4 Brother of JFK
5 Rely
6 Went astray
7 "Groovy!"
8 Part of speech: abbr.
9 Fixed charge
10 Outdoor socializing areas
11 Caltech or USC
12 Burrowing critter
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44 Elegant; stylish
46 Steam bath
47 As straight __ arrow
48 Adhesive
49 Angry speech
50 Ill-mannered lout
52 Part of every wk.
53 Waistcoat
55 Ernie with a club
56 __ off; steal from
57 Sunbather's reward

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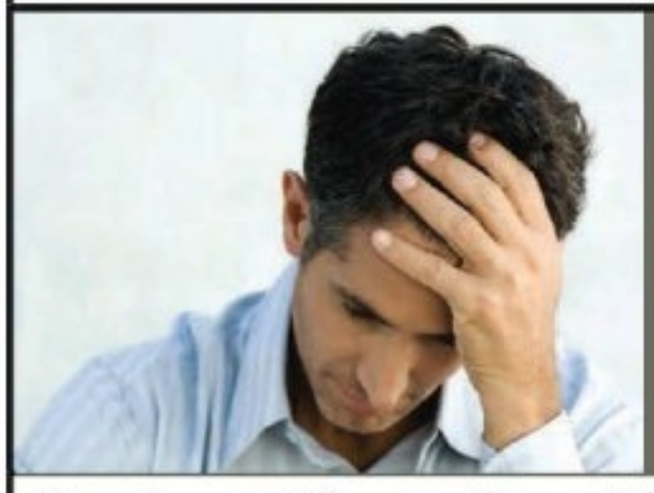
- Schizoaffective
- Schizophrenia
- Urinary Tract Infection (UTI)

Qualified participants may receive compensation up to $3,475 for time and travel. Transportation is available | No insurance needed

HASSMAN RESEARCH INSTITUTE

Contact us today to see if you qualify, at **1-866-230-4185** or visit **www.hritrials.com**



DEPRESSED?

Are you treating your depression with medication? Are you still feeling depressed?

If so, please call Hassman Research Institute about participating in our research study of an investigational drug for adults with treatment-resistant depression.

Qualified participants must: • Be 18 or older • Be taking prescribed antidepressant medication • Be currently experiencing a depressive episode

Insurance is not required to participate in our study, and all study-related care and study medications are provided at no charge.

Transportation and compensation up to $7,500 for time and travel may be available.

For more information, call toll-free 866-264-4545 or visit HRITrials.com

www.metro.us